

0955-3100

What is claimed is:

1. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:
  - (a) determining, in a computer, whether a predetermined event has occurred; and
  - (b) communicating with a computer input device having an illumination member to cause the illumination member to change states in response to the determining step.
2. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein said determining step includes determining whether at least one incoming message has been received.
3. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein said communicating step includes causing the illumination member to blink.
4. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein said communicating step includes causing the illumination member to change intensity.
5. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein said communicating step includes causing the illumination member to change colors.
6. A method for controlling an illumination member on a computer input device, said method comprising:
  - (a) determining, in a computer, whether a predetermined event has occurred; and
  - (b) changing a state associated with the illumination member in response to the determination step.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein said changing step includes transmitting a signal to the computer input device.
8. The method of claim 6, wherein said determining step includes determining whether at least one incoming message has been received.

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9. The method of claim 8, wherein said determining step includes determining whether at least one e-mail message has been received.
  10. The method of claim 8, wherein said determining step includes determining the number of incoming messages received and said changing step includes causing the illumination member to change states in a manner corresponding to the number of incoming messages received.
  11. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of establishing a set of senders, wherein said determining step includes determining whether the sender of the incoming message is in the set.
  12. The method of claim 9, wherein said determining step includes determining the number of e-mail messages that has been received and not opened.
  13. The method of claim 6, wherein said determining step includes determining whether an instant message has been received.
  14. The method of claim 6, wherein said determining step includes determining whether a request to respond to one of a video conference call and an audio conference call has been received.
  15. The method of claim 6, wherein said determining step includes determining whether a user is capable of receiving a solicitation.
  16. The method of claim 6, wherein said determining step includes comparing a scheduled event time relative to an actual time set in the computer.
  17. The method of claim 16, wherein said determining step includes determining whether the actual time set in the computer is the same as the scheduled event time.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein said determining step includes determining whether the actual time set in the computer has reached a time prior to the scheduled event time.

19. The method of claim 6, wherein said determining step includes determining whether a correct answer has been input.

20. The method of claim 6, wherein said determining step includes determining one of a state, a characteristic, and a condition relating to a character in a game program.

21. The method of claim 6, wherein said changing step includes causing the illumination member to blink.

22. The method of claim 6, wherein said changing step includes causing the illumination member to change intensity.

23. The method of claim 6, wherein said changing step includes causing the illumination member to change colors.

24. The method of claim 6, wherein said determining step further includes determining whether the computer input device has moved relative to a supporting surface.

25. The method of claim 6, wherein said determining step further includes determining whether a ball on the computer input device has moved.

26. The method of claim 6, wherein said determining step includes determining whether a request to respond to a solicitation to join a chat room has been received.

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a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

(b) communicating with a computer input device having an illumination member to cause the illumination member to change states in response to the determining step; wherein light illuminated from said illumination device is visible when said housing is placed on the supporting surface.

30. The system of claim 28, wherein said communicating step includes causing the illumination member to blink.

32. The system of claim 28, wherein said communicating step includes causing the illumination member to change colors.

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